

CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) A plastic closure for threaded engagement with a container and capable of engagement with a gasket located between said plastic closure and said container, the plastic closure comprising:
 - a cap portion,
 - an annular side wall portion beneath the cap portion having part line flash or surface mismatch thereon, the annular side wall portion comprising a top neck section, a threaded section beneath the top neck section, and a bottom section beneath the threaded section, and
 - a plurality of annular sealing bands situated around the top neck section of the annular side wall portion through at least a portion of said part line flash or surface mismatch, whereby as the plastic closure is threaded within the container, the sealing bands releasably engage the gasket, thereby improving the effectiveness of the gasket and preventing leakage between said plastic closure and said gasket due to said part line flash or surface mismatch.
4. (Original) The closure as in claim 3, wherein the annular sealing bands have a sawtooth shape pointing upwards and outwards, for better engagement with the gasket.
5. (Previously Amended) The closure as in claim 4, wherein the annular sealing bands have a top surface and an angled surface, the angled surface being angled upwards approximately 50 degrees from horizontal.
6. (Previously Amended) The closure as in claim 5, wherein the top surface of the

annular bands is displaced downwards approximately 10 degrees from horizontal.

7. (Original) The closure as in claim 3, wherein the annular sealing bands are integrally molded within the closure.

8. (Original) The closure as in claim 7, wherein the bottom section of the annular side wall portion is tapered for ready insertion with the container.

9. (Currently Amended) A plastic closure capable of preventing leakage between a closure sealing surface having part line flash or surface mismatch thereon and a gasket, said plastic closure comprising:

a cap portion;

an annular sealing surface extending below said cap portion and having part line flash or surface mismatch thereon; and

at least one annular sealing band extending radially outwardly from said annular sealing surface and through at least a portion of said part line flash or surface mismatch, so that said at least one sealing band engages the gasket so as to prevent leakage between said part line flash or surface mismatch and said gasket.

10. (Previously Added) The closure of claim 9 wherein said annular sealing band has a triangular cross-section so as to decrease the surface area at which the sealing band engages the gasket thereby increasing the engagement force between the sealing band and the gasket.

11. (Previously Added) The closure of claim 10 having a pair of annular sealing bands so as to prevent leakage between said part line flash or surface mismatch and said gasket.

12. (Currently Amended) An improved plastic closure for engagement with a container and capable of engagement with a gasket located between said plastic closure and said container so as to prevent leakage between said plastic closure and said gasket due to part line flash or surface mismatch on the sealing surface of said plastic closure, said plastic closure comprising:

an annular sealing surface having part line flash or surface mismatch; and

at least one annular sealing band extending radially outwardly from said annular sealing surface and capable of penetrating the gasket so as to improve the effectiveness of the gasket.

13. (Currently Amended) A plastic closure capable of engagement with a gasket for preventing leakage between a closure sealing surface having part line flash or surface mismatch thereon and the gasket, said plastic closure comprising:

a cap portion;

an annular sealing surface extending below said cap portion and having part line flash or surface mismatch thereon;

an annular threaded section extending below said sealing surface for engagement with a container; and

a pair of annular sealing bands extending radially outwardly from said annular sealing surface and through at least a portion of said part line flash or surface mismatch, so that said at least one sealing band engages the gasket so as to prevent leakage between said part line flash or surface mismatch and said gasket.

14. (Currently Amended) A plastic closure for threaded engagement with a container and capable of engagement with a gasket located between said plastic closure and said

container so as to prevent leakage between said plastic closure and said gasket due to part line flash or surface mismatch on the sealing surface of said plastic closure, said plastic closure comprising:

- a cap portion;

- an annular sealing surface extending below said cap portion and having part line flash or surface mismatch thereon;

- an annular threaded section extending below said sealing surface for engagement with said container; and

- at least one annular sealing band extending radially outwardly from said annular sealing surface so that when said plastic closure is threaded within said container, said at least one sealing band engages the gasket thereby improving the effectiveness of the gasket.